DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As the below named inventor(s), I declare that:

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: Coupling Device for a Detachable Shoe Upper on a Shoe, the specification of which was filed on March 1, 2002 as PCT International Application Number PCT/US 02/06539.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.
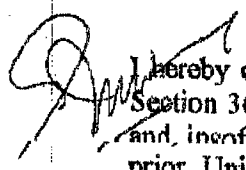
I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or (f), or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below, and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application

Number	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Claimed	Certified Copy Attached (Y/N)
P 01 01 03643	AR	07/31/2001	Yes	No

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

Application Serial No.	Filing Date

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. Section 120 of any United States application(s), or Section 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, C.F.R. Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

Application Serial No.	Filing Date	Status (patented, pending, abandoned)

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint all practitioners associated with Customer Number 26868 to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Send Correspondence to: CUSTOMER NUMBER 26868

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole or first inventor,   EDUARDO JORGE BIANCHI

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